



Biography

437th Airlift Wing (AMC)

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COLONEL WILLIAM J. BENDER

Colonel William J. Bender is the Commander, 437th Operations Group, Air Mobility Command, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina. In this position, Colonel Bender's responsibilities include the combat readiness of four C-17A squadrons and an operations support squadron. The Group was the first to receive the C-17A Globemaster III in 1993. Additionally, the 437th Airlift Wing provides more than 40 percent of the Department of Defense's all-weather airdrop force.

Colonel Bender is a graduate from Cardinal O'Hare high school, Tonawanda NY 1979. The colonel earned a Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Electrical Engineering from Manhattan College in 1983, a Master of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in 1989 and a Master of Arts Degree in National Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2002.

Colonel Bender was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1983 and is a command pilot with over 3,500 hours in the T-37, T-38, C/KC-135A/E/R, EC-18B, E/KE-3A/B, C-141B and C-17A.

EDUCATION:

- 1983 Bachelor of Engineering Degree, Electrical Engineering, Manhattan College, NY
- 1986 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB AL (residence and correspondence)
- 1989 Master of Arts Degree, Business Administration, Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ. FL
- 1995 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB AL
- 1996 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk VA
- 1999 Air War College, Maxwell AFB AL (correspondence)
- 2002 Master of Arts Degree, National Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks PA

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. December 1983 – November 1984, Undergraduate Pilot Training Student, 71st Student Training Squadron, Vance AFB, OK
2. May 1985 – January 1989, Flight Commander KC-135, 407th Air Refueling Squadron, Loring AFB, ME
3. January 1989 – September 1992, Wing Executive Officer, 4950th Test Wing, Wright-Patt AFB, OH
4. September 1992 – August 1994, Assistant Operations Officer, Chief E-3 Flight Test Pilot, 10th Test Squadron, Tinker AFB, OK
5. August 1994 – June 1995, Air Command and Staff College Student, Maxwell AFB AL
6. July 1995 – August 1997, Joint Staff Officer, Headquarters US European Command, Stuttgart, GE
7. August 1997 – April 1998, Assistant Operations Officer, 4th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB, WA
8. April 1998 – September 1998, Operations Officer, 4th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB, WA
9. September 1998 – February 2000, Commander, 4th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB, WA
10. February 2000 – July 2001, Special Assistant to the AMC Commander, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, IL
11. July 2001 – June 2002, US Army War College, Student, Carlisle Barracks, PA
12. October 2002 – Present, Commander, 437th Operations Group, Charleston AFB, SC

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot
Flight Hours: More than 3,800
Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, C/KC-135A/E/R, EC-18B, E/KE-3A/B, C-141B, C-17A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	May 22, 1983
First Lieutenant	May 22, 1985
Captain	May 22, 1987
Major	March 1, 1994
Lieutenant Colonel	January 1, 1998
Colonel	August 1, 2002

(Current as of Aug 2003)